

sion of America upon the acquisition of an interesting, reliable, and valuable treatise on climatology. It should enable the profession to act intelligently in the important choice of residence for invalids, and greatly increase the number of cures in patients whose diseases can be favorably affected by climate.

E. P. D.

REFERENCE BOOK OF PRACTICAL THERAPEUTICS. By Various Authors. Edited by FRANK P. FOSTER, M.D., Editor of the *New York Medical Journal* and of Foster's *Encyclopædic Medical Dictionary*. Vol. II. [N to Zymoidin]. Pp. 618. New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1897.

THE second and concluding volume of this work has appeared with commendable promptness, and, like the first, shows the painstaking labor of the editor. The sections devoted to serum-treatment (p. 166), thyroid treatment (p. 287), and mineral waters (p. 362) are exceptionally good. Usually the information is complete and so far advanced as is possible when delays incident to presswork are taken into consideration. As an exception to this statement may be cited that concerning nuclein (p. 19) and strophanthus (p. 230). In the matter upon rhus (p. 131) we find no mention of Pfaff, whose work is quite as important as any which has been done. Of minor errors we find fewer than would have been anticipated in a work of this character. The following is curious (p. 11): "Nitroglycerin is sometimes erroneously regarded as a nitrite. It is a trinitrite of glyceryl." Its correct chemical name, however, is found under nitroglycerin (p. 14). The binder is probably responsible for the cover-title reading "N-X-rays." As a matter of fact, X-rays are noticed on p. 397 and also at the end of the appendix, which is composed of omitted and additional matter. The references are usually to journals, giving year, month, and sometimes date. If their insertion is intended to facilitate reference to original articles, the year, number, and page, as given in the *Index Medicus*, would have been much more satisfactory. The general index, double columns, extending from pages 459 to 544, adds greatly to the value of the work. That of diseases and remedies, from pages 545 to 613, is valuable to the thorough student, but encourages the lazy practitioner, who regards the name of a disease as a peg upon which to hang a prescription. The index of authors (pp. 614 to 618) is hardly satisfactory. For example: On reading the section devoted to toxins there is no indication as to the author quoted until we find a reference "to my most recent paper in THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF THE MEDICAL SCIENCES for September and October, 1896." We recall at once that the author is Coley, but the "List of Authors" does not contain his name. We turn to our files and find that the article in question is contained in the September and not the October number of this JOURNAL. We continue our reading, and the brackets are unnecessary, for we recognize the editor's concise words, finding clearly stated the important views which have been presented. At the end, closely following the editor's work, we note the name of the contributor, which is Coley. A contributor using his own material to fill up his copy should know where

it appeared; nor should he expect an editor to furnish not only a larger amount of material, but also the results of more extensive research in current literature. We call attention to this not because we do not appreciate the excellent work of the contributor, but in connection with the wish, which we expressed in the review of the first volume, that the editor had contributed more extensively to it. The favorable opinion of the first volume which we expressed applies equally to this, which has maintained the high standard with which this work was begun.

R. W. W.

DISEASES OF THE GALL-BLADDER AND BILE-DUCTS. By A. W. MAYO ROBSON, F.R.C.S., Hunterian Professor of Surgery and Pathology, Royal College of Surgeons of England. Pp. 150. New York: William Wood & Co., 1897.

THIS monograph is a reproduction of the Hunterian Lectures before the Royal College of Surgeons in 1897, and embodies the result of Mr. Robson's experience in hepatic surgery during many years of practice. An appendix is added giving in a tabulated form the details of 170 consecutive operations on the gall-bladder and bile-ducts.

The discussion of the topic selected by the author is conducted in a clinical rather than a pathological manner. It is exceedingly valuable as a contribution to clinical surgery. Its worth would be greater if more attention had been given to the pathology of the conditions described. A great many specimens from the English museums have been examined by Mr. Robson, and of a good many of them photographic illustrations are given. The work of American surgeons in this branch of operative work has been well recognized, and many cases are cited from American literature. The many practical points contained in the book will render it a valuable one to those working in abdominal surgery.

The author is disposed to treat diseases of the gall-bladder and bile-ducts in a radical manner. Among his other propositions are two which are worth mentioning in this short review: The first is that obstinate catarrh of the gall-bladder should be treated as the similar condition of the urinary bladder,—by medical and general remedies for a moderate length of time, and, in the event of these failing to produce cure, the establishment of physiological rest of the organ by drainage. This is to be accomplished by the performance of cholecystotomy. The second proposition concerns phlegmonous cholecystitis. He here advises incision and drainage, which necessitates, therefore, an exploratory incision as soon as the diagnosis is made. If, however, gangrene is found to be present, the gall-bladder is to be removed, just as in gangrenous appendicitis the appendix is excised.

Such surgical activity is in accord with the results of modern thought; and though some may think these conclusions a little radical, they are probably those which are entertained by surgeons who have had the most experience in abdominal surgery. The volume should be in the hands of physicians as well as surgeons; since many of both classes do not realize the necessity for prompt surgical interference in these pathological conditions of the bile-tracts.

J. B. R.